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~~1. Miss Buchanan~~

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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND

WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health  
and Public Health Inspectors  
of the Districts

for the year

1966



**WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT  
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND  
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT**



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THE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN, HATFIELD RURAL  
AND WELWYN RURAL DISTRICTS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your Districts for 1966. Information on the County Health and Welfare Services for the Welwyn Division is given in a separate section as a supplement to the earlier sections covering the work of the Public Health Departments of the District Councils. The sections dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, and the Inspection and Supervision of Food have been compiled by the Public Health Inspectors to whom I am indebted.

There were no adverse factors during the year to upset the high standards of health maintained in each District. A small rise in the number of neo natal infant deaths in Welwyn Garden City caused the Infant Mortality rate to be above the National rate but too much importance should not be given to this for wide fluctuation occurs when the rate is determined by such few deaths. Apart from this figure the statistics compare favourably with other Districts in Hertfordshire and the National rates. The standardised Birth Rate in each District continues the steady fall from the peak of 1963, while the Death Rates remain about the same.

Infectious Diseases continued to decline throughout the three Districts with no poliomyelitis, diphtheria or other major infection, and only one case of enteric fever among the many families taking their holidays abroad. A localised outbreak of Infectious Hepatitis occurred in Welwyn Garden City during the first half of the year, similar outbreaks being reported in Hemel Hempstead and the other Districts in the County. The disease has been notifiable in Hertfordshire since 1941 and all general practitioners were reminded of their responsibility to report cases promptly. A careful enquiry into the epidemiology of the outbreak showed that the outbreak affected mainly children between 9 and 12 years of age, close contact in the home or school classroom with early or undiagnosed cases being the main factor in spread. The schools cooperated well in bringing to the notice of the school health department, children with gastro intestinal upset, particularly if associated with jaundice so that the child could be promptly seen by the school medical officer and excluded if deemed advisable. After a total of 59 cases had been reported, the outbreak subsided abruptly with the closure of schools at the end of the summer term. With the report on the trial of measles vaccines by the Medical Research Council, the later reports from the City of Oxford and other Local Authorities, evidence accumulates on the efficacy of the vaccines on trial with few severe reactions. The



report from Oxford is especially encouraging for it shows that the expected biennial rise in measles for the past Winter has been entirely avoided by the scheme of vaccination carried out during the past two years. It is to be expected that the Ministry of Health will soon give wider encouragement to Local Authorities to promote schemes of measles vaccination in their areas.

Acceptance rates for primary vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis and triple immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus have been well maintained with the recommended booster doses at 18 months of age and school entry. My thanks are due to parents, teachers, doctors, Health Visitors and Nurses who give so much of their time to these essential preventive measures.

An outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred in Hatfield during the Autumn when some 18 persons had mild gastro-enteritis for 24 - 48 hours following a meal. No other outbreaks were reported and notifications of dysentery and salmonella infections were fewer than in recent years. Complaints of unsound food from members of the public or food retailers are accepted and promptly investigated by the Public Health Inspectors and the cooperation of the public in reporting unsound practices or food is appreciated. The Inspectors have given attention to the cleanliness of utensils, particularly meat slicing machines, knives and working surfaces in recent months, the inspections often involving the swabbing of utensils and bacterial growth on agar plates in the laboratory to demonstrate standards of cleanliness achieved and the importance of using the modern detergent and sterilizing agents for cleansing utensils.

The formal opening of the unique Hatfield swimming pool by the Marquess of Exeter in November provides one more opportunity for physical exercise and recreational activity in mid Hertfordshire of which the people of Hatfield and the Council can be justifiably proud. In the few months that the pool has been in use, the swimming bath committee has had a difficult task to meet requests from so many local organisations and swimming clubs for the use of the pool, as well as the needs of school children and the general public. The public may attend the pool and enjoy the facilities for 83 out of the 97 hours each week that the pool is open and between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., each Sunday some 40 disabled members of the Platypus Club find confidence and companionship in enjoying freedom of movement in the pool assisted by almost twice as many helpers. The Gosling Stadium and the recently enlarged River Lea swimming pool in Welwyn Garden City, two other major recreational projects in Mid Herts attract increasing numbers of young people and supplement the facilities provided for physical activities and recreation in schools and Colleges of Further Education, at Youth Clubs and on the public recreation grounds. Attention is also being given to the provision of facilities for group play and activity



for the younger children during the school holidays. The efforts of the voluntary committee organising the adventure playground at Haldens, Welwyn Garden City, and the play groups arranged by the Parochial Church Councils Childrens Committee in Hatfield are worthy of full support. The promotion of all these schemes for encouraging individual and group physical activities is of the greatest value to the general emotional development of young people particularly at the age when they are emerging from earlier family ties.

Increasing attention is being given by the Public Health Inspectors to the problem of noise particularly where residential areas adjoin industrial premises. Continuous noise often of high frequency produced by extractor fans and other rapidly moving machinery does give rise to considerable annoyance to elderly residents particularly at night when other background sounds are diminished. In Welwyn Garden City investigation of the intensity and frequency of noises using a portable meter shows that these sounds can be deflected by the walls of neighbouring buildings to cause levels above a reasonable threshold at one or more nearby homes. Fortunately, when the complaints are brought to the notice of the managements of the firms concerned prompt action is taken to modify the source of the noise or to reduce the intensity by providing insulation or baffle walls.

In recent months the nation has become acutely concerned at the evidence of increased drug taking amongst the adolescent population, and several addresses have been given to local womens organisations and Parent Teacher meetings on this subject. Enquiry in this Division indicates that drug taking is not a problem in secondary schools but that opportunity for experimentation occurs at 17 - 21 years of age through contact with addicts or pushers at clubs, restaurants and colleges. Those who continue to take drugs after the experimental stage tend to be emotionally insecure young people who have difficulty in establishing stable relationships and who come from homes where family ties are poor. The majority are of average intelligence indeed mentally backward young people do not appear to be unduly susceptible to drug taking. The police and probation officers know only a proportion of those involved - probably the most disturbed element, and many young people do not meet this problem or are involved only for a short experimental phase in their growing up. Concern needs to be blended with a realization of the need for further enquiry into the basic causes of this problem, and determined efforts to detect and punish drug pedlars. Much of the publicity given to drug addiction is of a sensational nature and thus likely to attract teenage sensationalism but the most effective education is probably addressed to parents and womens organisations for the roots of this problem lie in poor home relationships, boredom and lack of incentive for more worthwhile objectives.

It was not found possible to commence cervical smear examinations of women during the year, in spite of strong representations from womens organisations in each District, as the Hospital Management Committee had not been able to recruit the laboratory technicians required for this work. A laboratory room was however fitted out at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital during the year, since when technicians have completed the approved Ministry training course and the service has been made available in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield.

Mr. M. Stockdale, Senior Public Health Inspector at Welwyn Garden City retired in May having completed 30 years service with the Council. The close attention which he always gave to proposals for the expansion of the Town in order to ensure that plans conformed to the Public Health standards was especially valuable in the Post War years and I am grateful to him for his advice and ready assistance in many practical problems.

In conclusion, I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerk and other Officers of the respective District Councils, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors who have helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health



WELWYN GARDEN CITY . URBAN .

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1966.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
(Retired May, 1966)

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

L. GARDINER, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector:

D. H. RATLIFF, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Rodent Operative:

E. J. THOMAS

Clerks:

Mrs. D. L. WALLACE

A. A. W. CALLABY

WELWYN GARDEN CITY SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,231
Population (mid year 1966 estimated by the Registrar General					41,000
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1967				.....	12,167
Rateable value of the District, 31st March, 1967				.....	£3,228,789
Product of a penny rate, 1966/67	.....	.....	.....	.....	£12,830

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	129	113	242
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	338	349	687
Rate per 1,000			16.8
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			5.8.
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	4	5	9
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			12.9
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			696
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	7	7	14
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			20.4
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			18.4
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			57.1
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			14.5
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			13.1
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			25.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil



## Population

The Registrar General's estimate of population at mid 1966 was 41,000 compared with 40,230 in mid 1965. The natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths 445, was 37 less than in the previous year mainly due to fewer births.

## Deaths

Cancer, Heart Disease and Cerebral Vascular Accidents, the three main causes of death in the elderly again accounted for two thirds of the total deaths during the year. Of the sixty deaths from cancer, sixteen were due to lung cancer now recognised as being largely attributable to excessive cigarette smoking, and twenty eight due to cancer of the alimentary tract and liver (16 men and 12 women). There were seven deaths from cancer of the breast in women and three from uterine cancer, two of the latter being due to cancer of the cervix a form which can be recognised in its earliest stages by regular routine cervical cytology examinations. Road Traffic Accidents (8) were the same as in the previous year. Congenital abnormalities (6) were rather above the average.

25 out of a total of 59 deaths attributed to heart diseases were the result of coronary thrombosis.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	-	1	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	30	30	60	47
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis	17	19	36	23
Heart Diseases	39	20	59	59
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	11	16	9
Luekaemia	-	1	1	1
Pneumonia	7	8	15	10
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	11	4	15	11
Ulcer of the stomach, etc.	2	-	2	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	4	4	8	9
Diabetes	-	1	1	3
Suicide	-	1	1	3
Congenital Malformation	4	2	6	2
Nephritis	1	-	1	-
Other defined causes	8	12	20	21
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
<hr/>				
	129	113	242	
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Deaths from Cancer:                      Total    60

Respiratory tract	16	Alimentary tract and live	28
Breast	7	Uterus	3
	Unclassified	6	



## Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1962 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1966.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1962	20.9	0.75	15.7	5.6	2.0	11.2	14.3
1963	20.7	0.87	18.0	5.9	1.86	10.97	15.1
1964	19.1	0.87	16.6	5.9	1.86	10.97	10.5
1965	17.6	0.87	15.3	5.7	1.82	10.37	16.9
1966	16.8	0.87	14.6	5.9	1.80	10.6	20.4
England and Wales 1966			17.7			11.7	19.0

687 live births were registered in the town during the year a fall of 23 from the previous year. The adjusted birth rate of 14.6 per 1,000 total population reflects this fall. The adjusted death rate of 10.6 per 1,000 total population is near the average of the previous five years.

### Infant Mortality

Eight infants died during the first few hours of life from prematurity or respiratory failure.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>
1 - 24 hrs.	4 Prematurity 1 Congenital defect	6 weeks	Asphyxia
2 - 7 days	3 Congenital defect 1 Respiratory failure	7 weeks	Congenital heart defect
3 weeks	Pneumonia	3 months	Intra cerebral haemorrhage
		10 months	Congenital heart defect

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received during the year :-

Scarlet Fever	8	Infectious Hepatitis	59
Whooping Cough	31	Diphtheria	Nil
Measles	162	Poliomyelitis	Nil
Pneumonia	2	Erysipelas	1
Dysentery	3	Acute Encephalitis	1

A further year of freedom from diphtheria, poliomyelitis and major infectious disease can thus be noted, and there were no outbreaks of food poisoning in the town.

A localised outbreak of Infectious Hepatitis mainly affecting young children of primary school age occurred during the first half of the year. While other Districts in Hertfordshire, e.g. Hemel Hempstead, have reported similar outbreaks, the local spread is interesting for only three cases were notified in Hatfield Rural District, and two in the Welwyn Rural District. Of the 59 cases notified in Welwyn Garden City, 51 concerned residents living East of the main railway line and South of the old Hertford railway line. 38 of those affected were children of primary school age, 26 being aged between 9 and 12 years.

Infectious Hepatitis is a virus infection characterised by a febrile illness associated with jaundice of varying degree and gastro-intestinal upset. Overall evidence suggests that the disease spreads more in the way of an intestinal than of a respiratory infection and that spread is not easy although given an adequate degree of contact it can be widespread. For example, 6 children, living in a rather overcrowded household, became infected. On the other hand there is strong evidence to suggest that the disease can be spread by apparently healthy carriers.

The first child notified became ill late in December 1965 or early in January 1966, the monthly distribution of cases being :-

Jan.	-	5	Apr.	-	6	July	-	10
Feb.	-	11	May	-	10	Aug.	-	2
Mar.	-	8	June	-	6	Nov.	-	1

As in the previous year, a few cases of gastro-enteritis of mixed origin and bacteriology were brought to the notice of the department but fortunately there were no outbreaks of sonne dysentery or salmonella infection. No enteric fever was reported among families returning from holidays abroad.



The usual rise in Measles notifications among pre-school and primary school children occurred in the Spring but now that the Ministry of Health has authorised preventive vaccination against this ailment by general practitioners it is probable that more general use of the vaccine will soon be advocated. Scarlet fever and whooping cough notifications relate to a few mainly mild infections, the clinical manifestations rapidly subsiding with treatment.

Accommodation is available at St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital for any person with an infectious disease needing hospital care.

### Tuberculosis

Eight new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the town during 1966 giving an attack rate of 0.3 per 1,000 population. Two notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were transferred from the London area, both quiescent cases under observation following medical treatment. There was one death from tuberculosis during the year.

The close liaison with the work of the Chest Physicians has been well maintained during the year with ready assistance from Miss C.F. McMullen, Health Visitor, attached to the Chest Clinic in enquiries into home and family circumstances.

The annual review of the tuberculosis registers in conjunction with the Chest Clinic shows a total of 232 cases under observation or treatment at the end of the year.

All immigrant families freshly arriving in the town from abroad are visited and advised to have a chest X-ray, but no problems arose throughout the year.

The light mobile X-ray unit is stationed at Trevelyan House, Church Road, each Tuesday afternoon for the examination of persons referred by medical practitioners in the town, and diagnostic X-ray facilities are also available at the Chest Clinic sessions held at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital.

A total of 549 children received B.C.G. vaccination by arrangements made by the school health service during the year.

## Housing

The redevelopment of the Heather Road/Springfields area made available by the clearance of the temporary bungalow dwellings was completed by the Council during the year, the scheme providing 44 houses and 24 bungalows together with 59 garages.

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following details of the Council's housing progress :-

As at 31.12.66

Number of houses owned by the Council	3,024
Number of garages owned by the Council	823
Number of families housed during the year	195

Position of Application Register :-

Priority grades	332
Non-Priority grades	27
Engaged Couples	223

Number of applicants for garages	136
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An important alteration of policy was made during the year by the Commission for the New Towns, which removed the restrictions on the type of applicant who could be offered vacancies in properties made available by the Commission to the Council. All such vacancies can now be allocated according to the needs of the Council's waiting list. In addition, in the latter part of the year the Commission found it possible to increase greatly the number of properties made available for this purpose.

Good progress was achieved by the Commission for the New Towns on the Panshanger schemes where 318 dwellings were completed during the year, 276 of which were houses for sale. Houses on the Panshanger Estates are mainly sold to Commission for the New Towns and Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council applicants and tenants and the resultant vacancies have enabled much more scope for transfers to be arranged thus relieving overcrowding on the Commission Estates. A scheme of twelve 3-bedroomed flats is now being built at Haldens.

In view of the increased turnover of dwellings and the falling demand for applicants under the Industrial Selection Scheme, the Local Committee decided that any surplus dwellings would be offered to the Urban District Council. As a result of this policy 59 properties were let to Urban District Council nominations and a further 28 houses on Panshanger were sold to Urban District Council tenants or applicants.

The current waiting period for applicants under the Industrial Selection Scheme is now approximately three months from date of acceptance on the Commission's waiting list.



## 1. WATER SUPPLY

The Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Lee Valley Water Company provides monthly reports regarding the quality of the water supplied to this district. During 1966 twelve such reports were received, and they may be summarised as follows:-

<u>Month obtained</u>	<u>Total Samples</u>	<u>Examined Bacteriologically</u>	<u>Examined Chemically</u>
1966			
January	36	34	2
February	33	31	2
March	42	40	2
April	33	32	1
May	40	37	3
June	34	32	2
July	32	31	1
August	39	37	2
September	37	35	2
October	35	32	3
November	41	39	2
December	30	28	2
	<u>432</u>	<u>408</u>	<u>24</u>

All the four hundred and thirty-two samples listed were considered to conform to the standard of purity considered suitable for public supply.

For a short time during the year the water supply in Welwyn Garden City was occasionally found to be milky in appearance when it was first drawn from the tap. This coincided with work being carried out at the Digswell Pumping Station in connection with restoring the yield from this important source of supply, and the modified pumping unit in use caused a vortex in the well. There was an in-suction of air to the mains and for some time the air was so intimately mixed in with the water supply as to draw complaints from many residents. It is emphasized that this condition was in no way prejudicial to health.

A number of complaints were also received during the year regarding an unpleasant taste in the water. The Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Lee Valley Water Company has made the following comments on this:-

"Complaints of taste in Welwyn Garden City water are usually associated with infrequently used supplies. If the demand for water is small, taste may develop in the consumer's service pipe and the remedy is to flush the tap freely for some moments to replace the stale water in the pipe by the taste free product from the outside water main. The taste is completely harmless and results primarily from complexing of the free chlorine trace customarily present in the supply.

The Welwyn Garden City source waters are exceedingly pure. They are, nevertheless, subjected to continuous chlorination and dechlorination in accordance with good waterworks practice."

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is served on a separate system. Foul sewage is gathered by tributary sewers and by means of gravity or through one of five pumping stations, and is discharged via the Mimram Valley Outfall Sewer to the Middle Lea Regional Works at Ryemeads.

### Rivers and Streams

A portion of the River Mimram (approximately one mile) runs through the northern part of the district, and a portion of the River Lea (approximately half a mile) runs through the southern part of the district.

## 3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of one cottage, situated on the north-western boundary of the district, all the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. There are no sewers in the vicinity of this cottage

## 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) House refuse is collected weekly in motor vehicles by the Council's staff. The refuse is taken to the tip at Cole Green owned by Messrs. Inns & Co.Ltd.

(b) Street cleansing is carried out by mechanical sweepers supplemented by manual sweeping as necessary.

(c) Gully Cleansing:-

All gullies for which the Council are responsible are emptied and flushed three times a year by Contract Gully Cleansing Ltd. who have a contract with the Council for this purpose.

(d) Dustbins:-

The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. Notifications of defective bins are passed to the Health Department by the refuse collectors, and the owner of the premises is required to provide the necessary replacement bin.



## 5. SHOPS

There are one hundred and seventy-two shops in the district in which the Health Department is responsible for enforcing part of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and/or the Shops Act, 1950.

Five hundred and fifty-nine inspections of shops have been made during the year and the following is a summary of action taken:-

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
Want of Cleanliness	10	10
Sanitary Defects	1	1
Infringements of Shops Act	29	29
Other nuisance or defects	4	4

Forty-four notices were served and complied with.

## 6. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of registered premises at the end of 1966 was two hundred and fifty-nine, and these can be classified under the following headings:-

Offices	93
Retail Shops	136
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	11
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	17
Fuel Storage depots	2

Total number of employees 4,409

Three hundred and one visits were made during the year under this Act and one hundred and twenty-one infringements of the Act were found.

Inadequate first aid equipment	17
Inadequate washing facilities	12
Danger or obstruction	10
Heating, lighting or ventilation	29
Overcrowding	2
Lack of maintenance	16
Others	35

This Act has done a great deal to improve conditions for staff generally and, whilst there may be no immediate decrease in the number of infringements found, the necessary work is usually put in hand without delay and there has been no need for any formal action.

Seventeen notifications of accidents were received during the year:-

Struck by falling object	4
Injury whilst using hand tools	1
Injury due to cutting or slicing machinery	1
Falls of persons	8
Striking against an object	3

None of the accidents was fatal, and in no case was the accident found to be due to the employer's negligence. The provision of guards to machinery, and prompt action when potentially dangerous practices were found may have prevented a number of serious accidents, and this prevention stage is an important feature of any visits made to registered premises.

## 7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

### (a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Inspections of Factories ( with mechanical power)	107
" " " (without mechanical power)	-
" " Licensed premises	33
Surveys and visits re Infested Areas (rats and mice)	474
Inspections of shops	559
" re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs)	189
" of Schools	38
Visits to Public Health Laboratories	61
Inspections of Dwelling houses under Housing Acts	29
Special Inspections or Visits made re:	
Drainage	368
Infectious disease	59
Council Property (excluding houses)	12
Noise	63
Water Supply	8
Dustbins	20
Accumulations of refuse	38
Miscellaneous visits	106
Destruction of bed bugs	19

### (b) Number of Informal Notices

71

(These notices were all complied with)



## 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke observations made	83
Smoke nuisances or contraventions	7
Air Pollution observations	141
Air Pollution nuisances	4

Whilst most areas of the town are relatively free from pollution by industrial smoke or effluvia, complaints are still received occasionally alleging that a nearby firm is polluting the atmosphere. There is often a simple solution to the problem but in some cases expensive equipment has to be ordered and tried out before the nuisance is overcome.

The law provides a defence against formal action for any Company where the best practical means are being taken to prevent a nuisance from fumes or other effluvia, but no firm wishes to trouble its neighbours unduly and there has been no lack of co-operation from any of the firms concerned in the cases dealt with during the year.

## 9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Two houses were found to be infested during the year.

The necessary treatment was carried out in each case and the premises were checked and, if necessary, retreated until found to be completely free of bugs.

## HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	203
(b) Number of visits made for this purpose	496
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found not be be fit or in which defects were found	52

In each case the necessary work was carried out following informal notice to the owner of the premises.

## 1. CONTROL OF FOOD

## (a) MILK

(i) Biological Examinations

The County Council obtains samples of raw milk from Tuberculin Tested and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during 1966.

(ii) Milk Sampling

Forty-eight samples of milk were obtained during the year for testing at the Hill End Laboratory. One sample of pasteurised milk failed to pass the phosphatase test, indicating that the milk had not been pasteurised properly. Subsequent enquiries confirmed that a batch of milk had passed through the dairy without receiving the proper attention. The necessary precautions to prevent a repetition of this failure have now been taken.

<u>Type of milk sampled</u>	<u>No. of samples taken</u>
Pasteurised Milk	41
Sterilised Milk	7

With the exception of the single sample mentioned above, all the samples passed the prescribed tests satisfactorily.

## (b) ICE CREAM AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

The bacterial quality of ice cream has been checked throughout the year with the aid of routine sampling and laboratory examination. Of the seventy-five samples taken, two proved to be unsatisfactory and enquiries were made to discover the cause of the failure on test.

The unsatisfactory sample obtained from a shop may have been affected by fluctuations in the temperature of the refrigerator, whilst the one obtained from a mobile vehicle was caused by the failure to carry out the proper sterilising technique on the ice cream dispenser. Subsequent samples from these sources proved to be satisfactory.

<u>Type of Ice Cream</u>	<u>Provisional Grade</u>				<u>Total</u>
	1	2	3	4	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		
Wrapped Brickettes	26	3	1	-	30
Wrapped Choc-bars	20	-	-	-	20
Iced Cream Lollies	17	-	-	-	17
Ice Cream Mixture	1	-	-	-	1
Soft or loose Ice Cream	6	-	1	-	7
	93½%	4%	2½%	-	100%



## Fruit Lollies

Four samples of fruit lollies were taken during the year and it was found that the acidity of each lolly was such that bacterial growth could not occur. This is the normal finding with this type of product, but occasional checks must be made as a control on an article which has such a wide appeal to young people.

### (c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS, EXCLUDING MILK AND ICE CREAM

The amount of food voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1966 was 5,159 lbs., made up as follows:-

(i)	<u>Uncooked Food</u>		<u>lbs</u>
	Meat	.....	234
	Fish	.....	88
	Poultry	.....	233
(ii)	<u>Frozen Foods (due to refrigerator breakdown)</u>		
	Vegetables	.....	374
	Fish	.....	775
	Meat	.....	1,031
	Fruit	.....	22
	Ice Cream	.....	594
	Poultry	.....	96
	Miscellaneous	.....	138
(iii)	<u>Food in containers</u>		
	Meat	.....	280
	Vegetables	.....	62
	Milk	.....	34
	Fruit	.....	981
	Fish	.....	-
	Miscellaneous	.....	217

### (d) LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS OF FOOD

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of food are carried out on behalf of the Council, as occasion requires, at:-

- (1) Counties Public Health Laboratories,  
Thresh House, Verulam Street,  
Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C. 1.
- (2) Public Analyst,  
20 Eastcheap, London, E.C. 3.

(3) Public Health Laboratory,  
Luton and Dunstable Hospital,  
Lewsey Road, Luton.

(4) Bacteriological examination only is carried out at:-

Hill End Laboratory,  
Hill End Hospital, St. Albans.

(e) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The provisions of this Act, concerning adulteration, are administered by the County Council. Twenty-five samples of food or drugs in common use were obtained in Welwyn Garden City during the year by Sampling Officers of the County Council. The following list shows the results of the formal and informal samples obtained.



<u>Sample</u>		<u>Analyst's Report</u>
Milk (3 samples)	:	Gerber Test Genuine
Milk C. Island (3 samples)	:	Genuine
Prolordone	:	"
Durophet M.	:	"
Dexamiphetanim	:	"
Drinamyl	:	"
* Edrisol	:	Contained only 85% of stated Phenacetin and twice amount of Amphetamine Sulphate.
Amphetamine Sulphate	:	Genuine
Daprisol	:	"
Orange Juice	:	"
Drinking Chocolate	:	"
Evaporated Milk	:	"
Pourover	:	"
Double Cream (2 samples)	:	"
Milk (4 samples) (Schools)	:	Gerber Test Genuine
* Edrisol	:	Follow up to sample above - small excess in Amphetamine content.
Tart (Consumer complaint)	:	Contained a nail. Letter of caution.

Total Samples Taken :

Foodstuffs : 7

Drugs : 8

Milk : 10

25

\* These drug analyses presented some special problems and the appropriate method of analysis was disputed.

(f) COMPLAINTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERNING FOOD

During 1966 eighteen complaints were received alleging that food was not of the nature or quality demanded by the purchaser. Two of these complaints were found to be without substance; the remaining cases were investigated and, where practicable, steps were taken which would prevent a repetition of the complaint.

(g) VISITS MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING FOOD:

Visits to examine meat and other foods	139
Visits to procure samples of food (excluding milk)	32
Visits to procure samples of Milk	20
Visits re sale of Ice Cream	41
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling Ice Cream	34
Visits to Mobile Vehicles selling other foods	23
Visits to Laboratories with samples of food	27

2. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES (Where more than one principal trade is carried on at one shop, each such trade is separately recorded)

<u>Trades</u>	<u>No. in Town</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Building Site Canteens	2	3
Industrial "	18	33
School "	27	36
Cafes & Restaurants	11	33
Licensed Premises	15	33
Food Manufacturers	6	25
Butchers	19	118
Fishmongers	5	102
Grocers	18	261
Greengrocers	19	28
Confectioners	17	41
Miscellaneous Food Premises	7	9

Informal Notices : 184

These notices were all complied with.

There are one hundred and sixty-four premises to which the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 apply, and all these premises are provided with proper facilities for washing of hands and washing of equipment in compliance with Regulations 16 and 19.



## FACTORIES ACT, 1961

## 1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

<u>Premises</u> (1)	<u>Inspections</u> (2)	<u>Number of Notices</u> (3)	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u> (4)
FACTORIES with Mechanical Power	107	7	-
FACTORIES without Mechanical Power	-	-	-
OTHER PREMISES under the Act	-	-	-
	<u>107</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	107	7	-

## 2. DEFECTS FOUND

<u>Particulars</u> (1)	<u>Number of Defects</u>		<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u> (4)	<u>No. of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted</u> (5)
	<u>Found</u> (2)	<u>Remedied</u> (3)		
<u>Sanitary Conveniences, S.7</u>				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	7	7	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	7	7	-	-

## 3. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(a) Outworkers

The occupiers of three local factories distribute work to one hundred and sixty-seven local outworkers. The local outwork is carried out in satisfactory conditions and no cause for complaint has arisen during the year. In addition there are:-

Six local outworkers employed by a firm operating in Cheshunt;

One " " " " " " " " Edgware ;

One " " " " " " " " Westminster.

(b) Factories - General Information

The Factories Act, 1961, came into force on 1st April, 1962, and repealed the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past forty-four years. The construction of the first factory in

the town was commenced in 1922 and after completion was, and still is, occupied by Dawnays Limited.

Health conditions are generally satisfactory and infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are examined by the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with Section 37 or 43 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted did not comply, amendments were informally negotiated with the proposers and compliance secured. Where there was no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans was likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1961, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, this was pointed out to the proposers, and every endeavour made to secure prior compliance with these Acts by them.

#### 4. RODENT CONTROL

##### (a) Administration

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and a full time Rodent Operative is employed.

##### (b) Rodent Destruction

As a result of complaints from the general public, infestations of rats and/or mice were found to be present on 293 premises. Details of the type of infestation found are as follows:-

	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Rats	268	1,698
Mice	20	108
Rats & Mice	5	11
Totals	<u>293</u>	<u>1,817</u>

The types of premises found to be infested are as follows:-

	<u>Local Authority Property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business &amp; Industrial Premises</u>
No. of premises infested by Rats	10	229	29
No. of premises infested by Mice	-	20	-
No. of premises infested by Rats & Mice	-	3	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>29</u>



(c) Chargeable Work

All dwelling houses in the district are treated without charge but rodent destruction on commercial and industrial premises is chargeable either by contract or by private works order. In these cases the agreement of the occupier of such premises to the charge has to be obtained before any disinfection is commenced. Twenty-seven establishments in the district have negotiated forty-one contracts with the Local Authority in respect of thirty-four premises, the income from these was £213. In addition, income amounting to £100. 2s. 7d. was raised on work carried out under private works orders.

Details of visits made under contract and of infestations found are as follows:-

	<u>No. of infestations found</u>	<u>No. of visits</u>
Rat Contracts	90	975
Mouse Contracts	21	431
	<u>111</u>	<u>1,406</u>

During the year 404 rat infestations were discovered from all sources and a grand total of 3,223 visits were made.

5. INSECT PESTS

The following table gives an analysis of the pests destroyed by the staff of the Public Health Department and the number of visits made by them to the infested premises for that purpose.

<u>Pest</u>	<u>No.of premises affected</u>	<u>No.of Visits made</u>
Wasps	163	268
Bees	13	13
Fleas	4	10
Flies	7	13
Bugs	2	14
Mites	3	6
Beetles	4	5
Silver Fish	1	1
Maggots	2	3
Earwigs	1	1
Woodworm	1	1
Carpet Beetles	1	1
	<u>202</u>	<u>336</u>

In addition to the foregoing, insect powder was supplied free to occupiers where pressure of work or the circumstances of the particular case made personal attention either not possible or unnecessary. Ninety-nine occupiers were supplied with the free issue. The Council has instructed that a charge of five shillings shall be made where treatment for ants is carried out by the staff of the Health Department.



HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1966

\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

C.A. BAILEY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R.H. EDLIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector:

R.G. MORGAN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Commenced 18.7.66)

Student Public Health Inspector:

S. PARKINS

Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:

L.A. LAWRENCE

Clerks:

Mrs. J. BANKS

A.A.W. CALLABY



HATFIELD SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	21,945
Population (mid year 1966) estimated by the Registrar General						43,940
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1967	...			...		13,182
Rateable Value of the District, 31st March, 1967	.			...	£2,771,299	
Product of a penny rate 1966/67	...	...	...	...		£11,260

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	179	184	363
LIVE BIRTHS:			
Number	381	339	720
Rate per 1,000 population			16.4
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			6.7
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	5	2	7
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			9.6
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS			727
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	6	3	9
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			12.4
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			11.9
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			20.8
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			5.5
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			4.2
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			13.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

## Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1966 was 43,940 compared with 43,420 at mid 1965. The natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths was 357 compared with 426 the previous year.

## Deaths

No major factor affected the death rate for the District over the year. The following table gives the main causes of death :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years</u>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	1	1	2
Cancer, Malignant disease	31	37	68	60
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	30	55	85	68
Leukaemia	-	3	3	1
Heart Diseases	60	52	112	96
Other circulatory diseases	8	6	14	14
Pneumonia	4	4	8	12
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	15	9	24	17
Diabetes	-	1	1	1
Nephritis	2	1	3	2
Ulcer of stomach etc.	4	1	5	3
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	1	2	2
Road Traffic and other accidents	12	4	16	11
Suicide	2	-	2	2
Other defined causes	10	9	19	26
	179	184	363	

Deaths from cancer, vascular accidents and heart disease, the three principal causes of death were a little above the average of previous years. Deaths from road traffic and other accidents showed a further increase to 16. There were no maternal deaths during the year. Of the 112 deaths from heart disease 44 were due to coronary thrombosis and angina..

### Deaths from Cancer: Total 68

Respiratory tract	18	Alimentary tract and liver	24
Breast	9	Uterus	2
		Unclassified	15

The 18 deaths from lung cancer is noteworthy for this is now recognised as being largely due to excessive cigarette smoking and therefore preventable. There was one death from cancer of the cervix of the uterus.



### Comparison of Annual Rates:

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1962 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1966.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1962	18.8	0.83	15.6	8.2	1.33	10.9	7.7
1963	19.5	0.91	17.7	8.7	1.23	10.2	29.2
1964	16.2	0.91	14.7	7.4	1.32	9.8	23.0
1965	17.4	0.91	15.8	7.6	1.25	9.5	9.3
1966	16.4	0.91	14.9	8.3	1.23	10.2	12.4
England and Wales 1966			17.7			11.7	19.0

After adjustment for inward and outward transferrable births a net total of 720 live births was registered in the District during the year, a decrease of 35 on the previous year. The adjusted birth rate of 14.9 reflects this fall.

The adjusted death rate of 10.2 per 1,000 of the population approximates closely to the average of previous years and compares favourably with the national rate.

## Infant Mortality

A total of nine infant deaths were registered during the year giving an infant mortality rate of 12.4. The causes of death were as follows :-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Cause of death</u>
12 hours	M	Prematurity
1 day	M	Prematurity
1 week	F	Respiratory failure
9 weeks	F	Hypoglycaemia
10 weeks	M	Cerebral Thrombosis
2 months	F	Asphyxia
5 months	M	Pneumonia
6 months	M	Asphyxia
1 year	M	Respiratory infection

Three of these deaths were largely due to prematurity while in the older children respiratory infection, often secondary to other debilitating illness, was the main cause of death.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious disease were received from medical practitioners during the year :-

Diphtheria	Nil	Poliomyelitis	Nil
Whooping Cough	5	Food Poisoning	Nil
Measles	147	Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Dysentery	8	Paratyphoid	1
Infectious Hepatitis	3		

Apart from measles which rose sharply at the end of the year few notifications of infectious disease were received. The maintenance of a high level of primary immunisation and vaccination against diphtheria, poliomyelitis, smallpox, whooping cough and tetanus is responsible for the satisfactory figures. The paratyphoid notification relates to a schoolboy who became ill on return from holiday abroad and was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital for investigation where a diagnosis of paratyphoid infection was established. He subsequently made a good recovery from his illness. Streptococcal infections (Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas) remain few and are usually mild infections.

While no definite notifications of food poisoning were received during the year, some 18 cases of acute gastro-enteritis occurred following a banquet at a hotel in Hatfield in October. Careful investigation failed to disclose the organism responsible for this outbreak but recommendations were made suggesting some improvements in the preparation of the meals at the establishment concerned.

Fortunately there has been no recurrence of the outbreak of sudden collapse among young girls attending secondary schools similar to the occurrence at Brookmans Park in the Autumn of the previous year.

### Tuberculosis

Three new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and two non-pulmonary cases were notified by the Chest Physicians giving an attack rate of .11 per 1,000 for the year. In addition one person under the supervision of the Chest Physicians transferred into the District from the London area. There was one death from this disease during the year.

Liaison with Dr. Edwards and the staff of the Chest Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and St. Albans City Hospital continues to be satisfactory, and there is prompt follow-up and report on the home circumstances by Miss C.F. McMullen, Tuberculosis Health Visitor, when requested. The light mobile X-ray unit holds a session at the Queensway Health Centre each Tuesday afternoon for the examination of persons referred by Medical Practitioners, and a total of 369 children received B.C.G. vaccination by arrangements made by the school health service during the year.



## Housing

On the completion of the Birchwood Farm flats/maisonettes at the turn of the year, making the total dwellings under the Council's management 2,421 (and 587 garages) plus 87 caravan standings at Ellenbrook Park, it was evident that for the first nine months of 1966 there would be no new properties for letting.

The four year programme of housing development, of some 800 units of accommodation, agreed by the Council and approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the years 1965 to 1968, had just been launched and the Council could look forward to a very much quicker rate of housing from the list in the not too distant future. However, inevitably there was to be a lull before the first dwellings in the new building schemes came off the stocks and advantage was taken of this period to undertake a fuller review of the waiting list and to re-appraise some aspects of the Council's housing list policy. Hitherto, applications had been accepted from any Hatfield resident or former resident regardless of need for housing accommodation, but those without housing need were recorded on a "non-active" list. A change in policy was decided upon and from henceforth (with the exception of pensioners or those nearing retirement age) only persons with bona-fide housing requirements were to be registered on the waiting list. This resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of eligible applicants, which at the close of 1966 totalled 400 on the "general need" list and 146 on the "elderly persons" list.

In the Autumn of 1966 the new dwellings being built on reclaimed allotment land and in-filling development in Welham Green began to be handed over on completion and by the end of the year 16 of the 3 bedroomed houses and a block of 12 one bedroomed flats were occupied. Six one bedroomed flats with garages beneath were ready in November on the St. Albans Road "backland" development, followed by six two bedroomed houses in December. This increase of 40 new dwellings brought the total Council properties to 2,461. A four year wait for applicants for housing had been the order of the day for some long time but in sight were the signs of a much reduced waiting time as the building programme accelerated.

Good progress was made during the year on the French Horn Lane and Woods Avenue schemes of the Commission for the New Towns, a total of 14 dwellings being completed by the end of the year. The waiting period for applicants under the Industrial Selection Scheme in Hatfield is approximately three months this improvement being mainly due to vacancies arising from tenants who purchased properties on the Panshanger Estate in Welwyn Garden City. When the two major schemes mentioned above begin to provide more regularly completed houses, applicants on the District Council waiting list will receive more assistance than in the past.

I am grateful to Mr. E.W. Pickering, Housing Manager for providing the above details of the Council's housing progress.



# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## WATER:

### Public Supply

Apart from a few private wells and bores, almost the whole of the town and rural district is supplied with domestic water by the Lee Valley Water Company, the exception being one or two properties on the Enfield boundary off Cattlegate Road.

The Company furnish the Health Dept. with numerous results of bacteriological samples taken throughout the district periodically, but in addition the Health Dept. takes a sample for chemical analysis by a public analyst. This was taken from a house in Great Braitch Lane, Coopers Green, on the extreme western fringe of the Water Company's supply main. Following is a summary of the reports:-

Physical Examination: Colour, Appearance, Odour: Nil

Chemical Examination: Reaction pH ... 7.4

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Free and Saline Ammonia .....	0.02
Albuminoid Ammonia .....	0.05
Oxygen absorbed .....	0.05
Nitrite Nitrogen .....	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen .....	10.00
<u>Hardness (as Calcium Carbonate)</u>	
Temporary .....	240
Permanent .....	100
Chlorine .....	37
<u>Total Solids (Dried at 100° C) .....</u>	454
Copper, Lead, Zinc .....	Not detectable

This water possesses a high degree of organic purity. I regard this water as quite suitable for use both for drinking and general domestic purposes.

Signed ... J. D. CURZON

Public Analyst.

### Private Supplies

There are now 14 wells, etc., supplying 46 dwellings in the district, and following is a summary of bacteriological samples taken. There are also 2 standpipes, one in each of the Parishes of Hatfield and Northaw, serving 3 dwellings from the mains supply. Two hand pumps are still used to supply two cottages with well water in isolated areas.

	<u>No. of Wells, etc.</u>	<u>No. of Dwellings Served</u>	<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsaits- factory</u>
Astwick	1	2	3	3	-
Coopers Green	2	6/1	7	6	1
Mill Green	1	1	8	4	4
North Mymms	4	11/5/2/1	14	11	3
Roe Hyde	2	6/1	25	15	10
Stanborough	2	1/1	5	5	-
Symondshyde	1	6	2	2	-
Lower Woodside	1	2	4	4	-

From the above results, especially those shewn in the last column, it is obvious that a constant surveillance is necessary in respect of domestic waters supplied by wells and bores, etc.

Whenever an unsatisfactory result is obtained, repeat samples are taken until the water is wholesome, this necessitates measures against contamination of tanks and cisterns against bird fouling, surface water contamination and often by adding Chloros in quantities prescribed by the public health inspectors, at appropriate intervals. This latter measure is always effective but quite often the occupier is at fault in not carrying out the routine as and when prescribed.

#### RURAL DRAINAGE:

This subject continues to occupy a large proportion of the public health inspectors' time, and it is gratifying to know that progress is consistent in spite of the financial freeze mid-way through the year.

#### Cesspools & Septic Tanks Abolished Newgate Street & Carbone Hill, Cuffley.

With the completion of two more sewerage schemes at Carbone Hill, Cuffley, and the link-up of those properties not previously connected at Newgate Street Village, the number of Cesspools and Septic Tanks was further reduced during the year.

Nineteen dwellings in Carbone Hill were connected to a newly laid sewer and nineteen cesspools/septic tanks were abolished.

Thirty-eight additional dwellings in Newgate Street Village including the south-east corner of Ponsbourne Park were connected to a new trunk sewer system facilitating the abolition of twenty-nine cesspools/septic tanks.

Thus in these two areas a total of 57 dwellings were connected to main drainage and 48 cesspools and septic tanks were abolished.



## HOUSING:

The continued policy of representing individually unfit houses under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957 progressed and in addition it is pleasing to note that re-development of Old Hatfield and a few fringe areas of the newer town, by the Commission for the New Towns, necessitated clearance of some "Twilight" and other areas in Park Street, Batterdale, Lemsford Road, Beaconsfield Road, Bury Road and French Horn Lane, and by the Council in respect of Lemsford Track area.

Formal action was taken under the Housing Act, 1957 in respect of the following individual unfit dwellings:-

- (a) Houses demolished (following representation in 1962) January 1966 = 4
- (b) Unfit Houses actually closed = 4

### Explanation of above:-

- (a) Nos. 18, 20, 22, 24 Beaconsfield Road = 4
- (b) Nos. 3 Sun Cottages, rear of "The Sun P.H." Northaw }  
Nos. 6, 8, 10 Lemsford Village } = 4

Informal action was also agreed with the owner of 1 & 2 Vicarage Cottages, Church Lane, Northaw, to close as unfit when the one old remaining tenant left. In fact, when this occurred, both cottages were demolished.

## Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received and approved during the year.

Six Certificates previously issued were cancelled on completion of the specified repairs.

## Improvement Grants

Twelve applications for Improvement Grants were approved - 7 Standard and 5 Discretionary. Of these five were tenanted and seven owner occupied. The average amount of grant paid per house was Standard £106 and Discretionary £335.

On completion of these improvements the following amenities will have been installed:-

Hot Water Systems	11	Baths	9
W.C's (internal)	10	Food Stores	8
Wash Basins	10		

## Caravan Sites

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 has had a productive effect by enforcing the provision of acceptable amenities and

of reducing the number of sites, but the number of caravans in the district now exceeds what it was even 2 - 3 years ago.

The Council's "Municipal Site" at Ellenbrook housed 70+ caravans at December 1966, made up of removals from various other sites in the district together with new tenants from the Council's Housing List.

The Holwell Gipsy Site, Hertford Road, administered by the County Council, but visited often by Hatfield Public Health Inspectors, contains a fairly static population of 15 caravans, and the "Romany" site, adjacent to the Mill Green Sewage Works, 5 caravans.

The total number of caravans on approved sites in the district, inclusive of all the above, is now approximately 200.

Itinerant gipsy vans do not now cause much concern, although it was found necessary for the Council to remove six caravans with the assistance of the Police from a plot of ground between the old Great North Road and Mount Pleasant Lane, Hatfield.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND PREMISES

### MEAT:

#### Inspection of Meat at Slaughterhouses

There is now only one licenced slaughterhouse in the district at White Lodge Farm, Bulls Lane, Bell Bar. Pigs only were killed and dressed during the year, the total throughput being 779.

Every carcase was inspected, involving examination of all offal, and glands as specified by the regulations. Fifty-three visits were made by the public health inspectors, the great majority being on Sunday afternoons, the remainder before office hours on Monday mornings.

Following is a list of condemnations of organs and parts of carcases:-

<u>Number of Pigs killed and inspected</u>	779
--	-----

#### Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	7
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	0.89

#### All Diseases other than Tuberculosis

Whole carcases condemned	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned (approx)	150



Reason for Condemnation - including parts of offal

Heads	- Tuberculosis	5
Livers - whole or part	- Spotted	46
	- Cirrhoses	4
Hearts	- Perocarditis, Adhesions	18
Lungs	- Pneumonia	28
	- Pleurisy	13
	- Congestion	139
Leg - whole or part	- Arthritis	4
Mesentery	- Tuberculosis	2

ICE CREAM SAMPLING:

The following samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year and sent to the laboratory for Methylene Blue test:-

<u>Place of Sampling</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>		<u>Total</u>
	Provisional Grade (1)	Provisional Grade (2)	Provisional Grade (3)	Provisional Grade (4)	
Vehicles	6	1	-	-	7
Shops	11	-	-	-	11
Hotels and Cafes	9	-	-	-	9
	26	1	-	-	27

Grades 1 & 2 are regarded as Satisfactory. Grade 3 & 4 Unsatisfactory. The above results therefore indicate 100% of all samples satisfactory.

MISCELLANEOUS FOOD SAMPLES:

Occasional samples of those foods known to be susceptible to harbouring food poisoning organisms are taken and submitted to a laboratory for examination. These included 7 cooked meats, 2 cream, 1 liquid egg and 2 dessicated coconut. All were reported as satisfactory.

FOOD CONDEMNED AT SHOPS, STORES, WAREHOUSES, FISH DEPOTS, ETC., AND MEAT OTHER THAN AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE:

	<u>lbs.</u>		<u>lbs.</u>
Frozen Foods	1,876	Fruit & Vegetables	756
Wet Fish	1,148	Other Foods Various	10
Meat - Canned & Cooked	241		

The total weight of foodstuffs condemned during the year is considerably lower than previously, due largely to the fact that breakdowns among large refrigerator stocks at some of the Stores have fortunately been much fewer than hitherto. These mishaps were fairly common in 1965.

# FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

<u>Category of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Premises Fitted to Comply with Reg. 16</u>	<u>No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 Applies</u>	<u>No. of Premises Fitted to Comply with Reg. 19</u>
Factory Canteens	17	17	17	17
School Canteens	36	36	36	36
Cafes & Restaurants	33	33	33	33
Transport Cafes	6	6	6	6
Private Clubs	15	15	15	15
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Bakers Shops	8	8	8	8
Butchers	23	23	23	23
Fishmongers	7	7	7	7
Fruiterers & Green- grocers	18	18	18	18
Grocers	44	44	44	44
Confectioners	29	28	28	28
Licensed Premises	38	38	38	38
	<u>276</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>275</u>

Note: Regulation 16 refers to provision of wash basin, with hot & cold water supply.

Regulation 19 refers to provision of sink or other facility with hot & cold water supply.

## POULTRY INSPECTION

Number of Poultry Processing Establishments	11
Number of Visits	40
Number of Birds Processed during year	3,337
Types of Birds Processed	Chickens, Capons & Turkeys
Percentage of Birds Rejected as Unfit for Human Consumption	NIL
Weight of Poultry Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption	NIL

## Comments

All the poultry processing establishments, with minor exceptions, process for the Christmas Season only. During October, 1966 discussions took place with owners to bring premises up to the standards required by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. Of the 3,337 birds processed, 3,000 were at two premises.



## SWABBING OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENT, ETC.

Periodical swabbing tests of kitchen equipment and butchers utensils i.e., knives, slicing machines and meat saws, were taken during spot visits and the swabs submitted to the laboratory for culture.

The prime reason for doing this, was to check on the presence of the group of food poisoning organisms in meat residue. All samples taken were reported negative but the "plate" counts given for some equipment were high. The meat or bacon slicer is a piece of complicated equipment and requires time, method and patience to clean and sterilise satisfactorily. Attention to those points was made at the time of re-visiting.

A total of sixty-four swabbing tests was made in connection with this exercise.

## NUISANCES ABATED: CONTRAVENTIONS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED:

<u>Houses</u>		<u>Total</u>
Roofs Renewed or Repaired	64	
Walls Pointed or Rendered	23	
Walls/Ceilings Repaired	24	
Floors Repaired/Renewed	6	
Windows or Doors Repaired/Renewed	58	
Fireplaces Renewed/Repaired	2	
Stairs Renewed/Repaired, Rails Fixed	2	
Dampness Abated	40	
Additional Lighting Provided	9	
Additional Ventilation Provided	7	
Foodstores Provided or Repaired	<u>6</u>	241

### Sanitary Fittings etc.

Sinks Provided or Replaced	7	
Baths and Basins Provided/Replaced	9	
Hot Water Supplies Provided	50	
New W.C. Compartments	4	
Renewal/Repairs to W.C's	10	
Pailclosets Abolished	1	
Drains Constructed and Repaired	5	
Drains Connected to Sewer	50	
Drains Cleared	6	
Drains Tested	6	
Cesspools Abolished	49	
Offensive Accumulations Removed	4	
Animals - Nuisances Abated	<u>1</u>	202

## INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA:

The following is a summary of the visits made by the public health inspectors during the year:-

Public Health ActsTotal

Complaints	182	
Housing	32	
Infectious Disease	33	
Visits to Path. Lab.	65	
Water Supplies	156	
Drainage/Sewerage	173	
Cesspools/Septic Tanks	81	
Insect Infestation	85	
Rodent Control	66	
Agricultural Premises	62	
Swimming Pools	15	
Noise Abatement	9	
Animal Boarding Establishments	17	
Sundry Nuisances	<u>80</u>	1,056

Housing Acts

Housing Inspections	279	
Houses Let in Lodgings	14	
Houses in Multiple Occupation	5	
Overcrowding	1	
Improvement Grants	57	
Rent Act	16	
Licensed Caravan Sites	58	
Gypsy Caravans	<u>43</u>	473

Food and Drugs Act

Slaughterhouses	57	
Food Inspection	62	
Food Complaints	50	
Food Shops	312	
Food Warehouses	18	
Cafes and Restaurants	137	
Licensed Premises	41	
Transport Cafes	22	
Factory and School Canteens	79	
Market Food Stalls	305	
Pet Animals	61	
Mobile Shops	59	
Watercress Beds	<u>5</u>	1,208

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act

General Inspections	166	
Other Inspections	<u>435</u>	601



<u>Clean Air Act</u>		<u>Total</u>
Volumetric Recordings	714	
Smoke Observations	46	
Boiler Plant Inspection	<u>14</u>	774
 <u>Factories Act</u>		
Power Factories	92	
Non-Power Factories	<u>8</u>	100
 <u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Rubbish Accumulations	5	
Lay-by Sanitation	1	
Radioactive Waste	5	
Refuse Tip	7	
Refuse Collection	1	
Poultry Processing	40	
Certificates of Disrepair	12	
Immigrants	<u>20</u>	91

# FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Following is a summary of duties carried out under the above Act:-

Number of Factories on Register ... ..	116
Number of Inspections made ... ..	94
Number of Notices served as a result of Notifications from H.M. Inspector of Factories ... ..	1
Number of Defects Remedied ... ..	3

## Defects Found

Want of Cleanliness ... ..	1
Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	3

## Factories

*With Mechanical Power where Section 7 enforced ... ..	114
Without Mechanical Power ... ..	2

\*Note - Section 7 refers to provision of Sanitary Conveniences and although primarily the responsibility of H.M. Inspector of Factories, such matters must be referred to the Local Authority.

# OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

During this, the second full year's working in connection with the above Act, detailed inspections were completed on all offices and shops within the district, the total then being 335. The local authority have no responsibilities in respect of railway premises, schools, crown premises, municipal offices and offices within the curtilage of factories, these duties being carried out by H.M. Inspector of Factories. Following are details as submitted to the Ministry of Labour by way of Annual Report for 1966:-

## Registrations and General Inspections

	<u>NUMBER OF PREMISES REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REGISTERED PREMISES RECEIVING A GENERAL INSPECTION DURING THE YEAR</u>
Offices	4	86	34
Retail Shops	6	196	66
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	8	4
Catering Establishments open to public, Canteens	4	43	21
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	1
TOTALS	15	334	126



Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises . . . . 609

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

<u>CLASS OF WORKPLACE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED</u>
Offices	608
Retail Shops	966
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	119
Catering Establishments open to public	349
Canteens	17
Fuel Storage Depots	2
	<hr/>
	TOTAL 2,061
	<hr/>
	TOTAL MALES 931
	TOTAL FEMALES 1,130

Number of Exemption Applications Received . . . . . 1

Number of Exemption Applications Granted . . . . . 1

Number of Extension of Exemption Applications Received . . . . . 2

Number of Extension of Exemption Applications Granted . . . . . 2

Number of Exemption Certificates Cancelled . . . . . 2

Exemption and Extension to Exemptions were granted for Sanitary Conveniences or Running Water or both.

Reported Accidents Investigated

Warehouse 1	Office 1	Catering Establishment 1	Retail Shop 3	<u>TOTAL</u>
				6

Number of Informal Notices Served . . . . . 98

Number of Informal Notices Complied With . . . . . 136

Summary of Contraventions

77.7% of Premises receiving General Inspection had one or more contravention.

CONTRAVENTION	TOTAL	%
Failure to Display Act	87	32.4
Insufficient First Aid Requisites	48	17.9
Absence of Thermometer	45	16.8
Lack of Hot Water Supply to Wash-Hand Basin	21	7.8
Redecorations Required	20	7.4
Machinery not Suitably Guarded	11	4.1
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	6	2.2
Sanitary Accommodation Not Indicated for Sexes	5	1.9
Insufficient Washing Facilities	5	1.9
Lack of Facilities Drying/Accommodating outdoor Clothing	5	1.9
Insufficient Temperature in Office or Shop	4	1.5
Insufficient Ventilation to Office or Shop	4	1.5
Defects of Stairs or Floors	3	1.1
Lack of Ventilation to Sanitary Accommodation	1	0.4
Complete Lack of Washing Facilities	1	0.4
Absence of Drinking Water	1	0.4
Insufficient Seating	1	0.4
TOTALS	268	100.0

Contraventions found expressed as percentage of total contraventions

Six accidents were reported to the Health Department, five of these were of a minor nature, sprains, bruises, etc., involving absence from work of not less than three days but the other was serious in that multiple injuries were sustained by the driver of a 3 wheel fork lift vehicle in a warehouse, which toppled over during operation. It appears that no one else actually saw the incident, but this department was required to report it to the Ministry of Labour, on the evidence given.

#### STUDENT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

Each year the senior lecturer in Public Health Studies at Tottenham Technical College requests the opportunity to bring third-year student public health inspectors to Hatfield to do practical studies in methods of rural drainage disposal, including visits to Mill Green Works, individual house plants, village works, etc., and controlled tipping at the Cole Green Refuse Tip.

In addition six overseas public health inspector students, from Zambia and Gibraltar, each spent 2 weeks with the department to study rural aspects of the work.



## EXCESS COPPER & PHOSPHATE IN FRUIT DRINK VENDING MACHINE:

An unusual and possibly unique incident arising from consumption of a fruit drink from a vending machine operating in a Hatfield factory occurred following complaints of sickness.

The Health Department, having been called in to investigate, sent the remainder of the offending drink to the County Analyst, who reported 72 parts per million of copper. Copper in drink is first noticeable by taste at about a level of 5 p.p.m., and may be said to be undrinkable at 20 p.p.m. It is easily seen, therefore, that the above amount greatly exceeds human tolerance.

As there were several possible avenues to explore, the assistance of the Chief Chemist, Lee Valley Water Company, Bishops Rise, Hatfield, was sought and a series of samples from various suspect points were taken by the public health inspectors for examination in the above laboratory. A subsequent sample shewed an even higher content of copper of 90 p.p.m. with total phosphates also at the extremely high figure of 4,875 p.p.m.

By elimination it was proved conclusively that the main cause was due to the drinking water being retained in a copper cylinder/reservoir inside the vending machine, at the inlet of which, however, water was dispensed through a conditioning unit containing Hexametaphosphate crystals. The purpose of this unit was said to be anti-staining, anti-corrosion and scum forming.

The incidence of sickness and taste however would not have arisen if the vending machine had been in regular and frequent use, but unfortunately this one had been installed new and ready charged 2 or 3 weeks previously and not used until the above mentioned incident. It was ultimately conceded, after some discussion, by the manufacturers of the conditioning unit that during longer periods of standstill the phosphate contents of the water inside the dispenser (conditioner) will increase as the material is a phosphate glass with unlimited solubility. If by circulation the phosphate solution is kept flowing, copper and iron will not be attacked. However, the natural oxide film of the copper surface may be attacked in standstill water which has a considerably higher phosphate concentration than obtained with the usual inoculation method. Thus flowing water is a necessary condition for the formulation of a protective phosphate layer.

Following correspondence with the manufacturers of the vending machine I received confirmation that all similar conditioning units will be removed from their machines in this Country.

Note: This incident would seem to be exceptional in the high copper content and account of it was published in the journal "Public Health Inspector". The Chief Chemist of the Lee Valley Water Co. also commented on it in his Company's Annual Report for 1966.



## RESIDENTIAL HOTELS - STANDARDS & FACILITIES:

A survey carried out of each residential hotel in the district, of which there are only five - all within Hatfield Parish - to ascertain whether W.C's, baths, wash-basins, etc., provided were adequate for the number of residents catered for.

At the time the survey was made there appeared to be no national standards in operation but within a few months of doing this the British Travel Association issued a "Recommended Minimum Standard" following consultation with hotel and catering associations, regional tourists boards and local authorities.

The survey provided very satisfactory results as will be seen from the following brief summary which in all cases is well in excess of the minimum standards since recommended:-

Total number of bedrooms available at the five hotels - 119  
(Every bedroom has private wash basin with h. & c.)

No. of W.C's provided - average - 1 for 4.1 persons  
                                    - lowest - 1 for 5.5     "

One hotel had 21 W.C's for 41 residents including 18 rooms with private fittings.

Bathroom accommodation overall is 1 for every 3.6 persons  
the lowest in any hotel being 1 for every 7.5     "  
the highest "     "     "     "     1 for every 1.9     "

Two of the five hotels have, during the past four or five years, built additional accommodation on the motel principle, which may explain why the above amenity value is so satisfactory.

## FAECAL SPECIMENS:

At the request of the General Practitioners and the Medical Officer of Health, twenty-seven specimens were collected and taken to the laboratory to assist diagnosis of enteric upsets.



## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION:

The graphs show the average daily concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide for the last three years. The recording stations were installed at Briars Lane Infants School and St. Michaels, Birchwood in October, 1963.

The graphs show a general decrease in concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide over this period. The real reason for this is the yearly increase in the number of dwellings which are burning smokeless fuel and installing gas, electric and oil heating. Suppliers of smokeless fuels, and the Gas and Electricity Boards, have indicated there has been a marked increase in sales during the past three years.

Sulphur content of both coal and coke is the same at about 1.6%. While smoke will be reduced by the burning of coke the emissions of sulphur dioxide will be the same. However, coal gas and gas oil, which have sulphur contents of approximately 0.05% and 0.7% respectively, will reduce the concentrations of both smoke and sulphur dioxide.

Sulphur dioxide is soluble in water and forms sulphurous acid which becomes more concentrated as moisture increases and in the presence of air the solution is oxidised to sulphuric acid.

Weather conditions have a marked influence on smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations. The main cleansing agents of pollution are wind and rain. The formation of fog during temperature inversions prevents cold smoke and sulphur dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. Cold, calm and sunny weather invariably brings about an increase in ground-level concentrations.

The only odd factor about the graph for the three years is the rise in the daily concentration of sulphur dioxide for the period December/January, 1966, while the smoke concentration shows a decrease.

The 30 days from the 26th December, 1965 to 24th January, 1966 inclusive had temperatures below freezing on 21 occasions. On 23 days there was no rain and little or no wind.

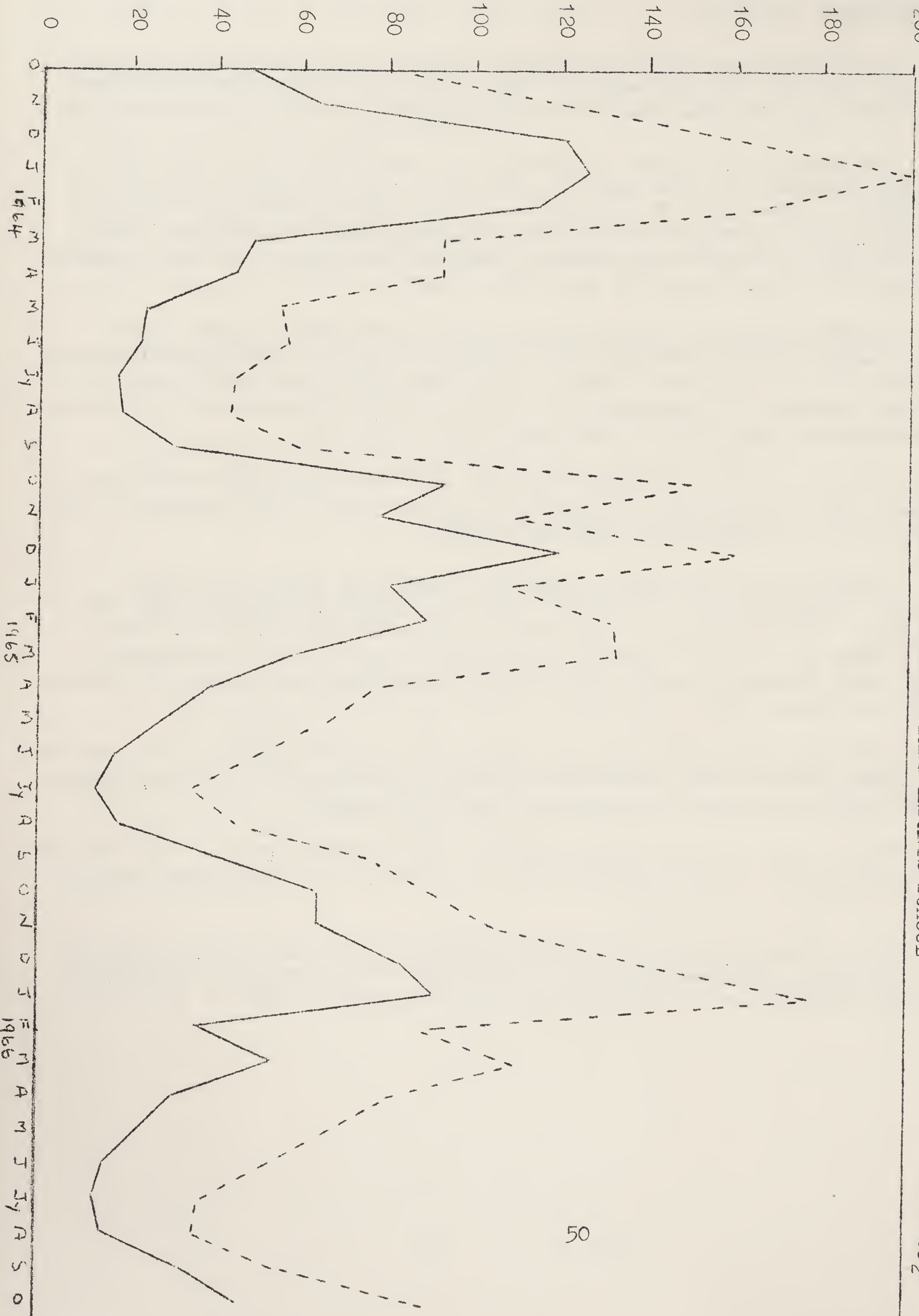
It is obvious, therefore, that domestic heating was at full capacity and although smokeless fuels reduced the smoke concentration, additional sulphur dioxide was omitted with the increase in fuel used.

micro/grams  
per cu.metre

GRAPH SHOWING AVERAGE DAILY CONCENTRATIONS OF SMOKE & SULPHUR DIOXIDE  
October 1963 to October 1966

SITE NO. 1 BRIARS LANE INFANTS SCHOOL

— SMOKE  
--- SO<sub>2</sub>



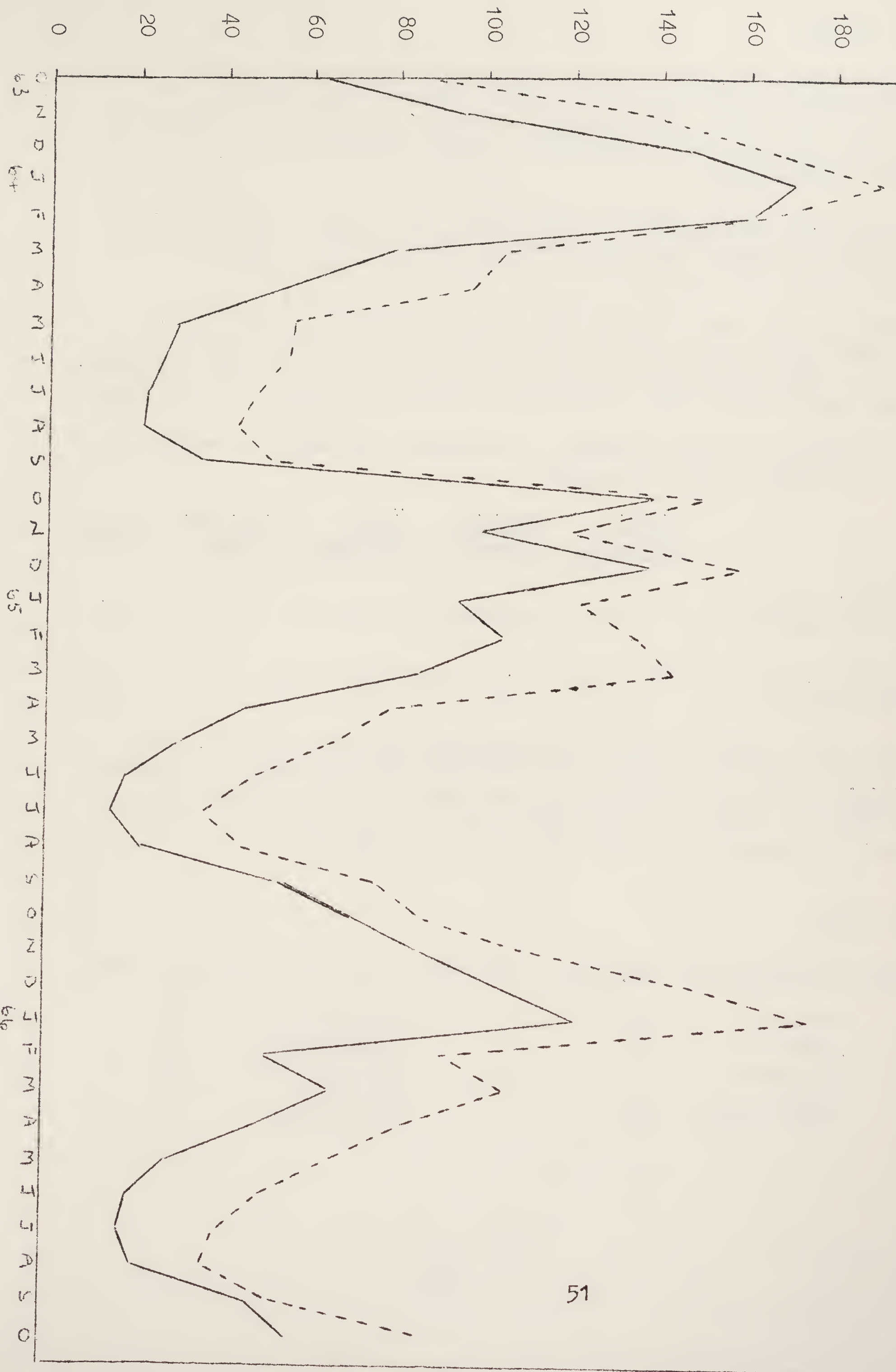


micro/grams  
per cu.metre

GRAPH SHOWING AVERAGE DAILY CONCENTRATIONS OF SMOKE & SULPHUR DIOXIDE  
October 1963 to October 1966

SITE NO. 2 ST. MICHAELS, BIRCHWOOD

— SMOKE  
- - - SO<sub>2</sub>



## RODENT CONTROL:

Infestation of premises with rodents continues along similar lines over the years, and the Council's rodent officer, Mr. Lawrence, is always fully occupied. The problem can never, it seems, be completely eliminated, and the rodent population remains fairly constant with some seasonal fluctuation.

During the final months of 1966 there were signs of increasing infestation throughout the South Eastern Counties due in part to a wet and mild autumn, and confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Thirty-eight farms and premises were surveyed and treated on a contractual basis, once monthly, the total value of which amounted to £440 p.a. Casual treatments at business premises, as and when requested, realised approximately £72. There is no charge for visits to dwellings.

Following is a brief summary of treatments carried out largely as a result of requests from ratepayers.

	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Agri-</u> <u>cultural</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>etc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Properties found to be RAT infested	11	306	36	68	421
Properties found to be MOUSE infested	-	13	36	9	58

The above figures represent properties only, most of these were treated more than once. The farms, etc. were treated monthly incurring 430 visits per annum. Neighbouring premises in built-up areas are always surveyed on the initial visit to assess the area to be treated and the total number of visits carried out exceeds 2,000 p.a.

## INSECT PESTS:

The following pest complaints were also dealt with during the year:-

Woodworm	27	Blackbeetles	1
Ants	33	Bluebottles	2
Crickets	1	Cluster Flies	4
Fleas	2	Bed Bugs	1
Wasps Nests	147	Bees (wild)	6



WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Public Health Inspector for 1966

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G.R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S. (London) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

P.B. HAWLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

D.N. SIBLEY, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

A.A.W. CALLABY



WELWYN SECTION

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	5,232
Population (mid Year 1966 estimated by the Registrar General)					7,490
Number of inhabited houses, 31st March, 1967	..	...			2,430
Rateable Value of the District, 31st March, 1967		...			£353,615
Net product of a penny rate 1966/67	...	...	...		£1,393

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES	38	24	62
LIVE BIRTHS			
Number	54	51	105
Rate per 1,000 population			14.0
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS PER CENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS			.95
STILLBIRTHS			
Number	0	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			9.4
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	54	52	106
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	-	-	-
INFANT MORTALITY RATES			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			Nil
Legitimate " " " " Legitimate live births			Nil
Illegitimate " " " " Illegitimate " "			Nil
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			Nil
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			Nil
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			9.4
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

## Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid 1966 was 7,490 compared with 7,350 at mid 1965. The natural increase of population, i.e. excess of births over deaths was 43 compared with 72 in the previous year.

## Deaths

There was a total of 62 deaths in the District compared with 60 during the previous year. Considerable fluctuation in the annual totals occurs when comparing relatively small numbers. However, deaths from Cancer and Cerebral Vascular Accidents were well above the average of previous years. Eight of the 20 deaths from Heart Disease were due to Coronary Thrombosis. Once again I can report no deaths due to childbirth, tuberculosis or road accidents, although there were four deaths from cancer of the lung. The following table gives the main causes :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average past five years.</u>
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	9	6	15	10
Cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis	3	7	10	8
Heart Diseases	14	6	20	20
Other circulatory diseases	2	1	3	4
Leukaemia	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia	3	1	4	3
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	-	2	2	3
Congenital Malformation	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-	2
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Other defined causes	6	1	7	7
	38	24	62	

## Deaths from Cancer

Total 15

Respiratory	4	Breast	1
Alimentary tract and liver	8	Uterus	-
	Unclassified	2	



## Comparison of Annual Rates

The following table shows the Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1962 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1966.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Births	Standardised Birth Rate	Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	Standardised Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
1962	18.4	0.85	15.6	9.7	1.18	11.4	15.4
1963	19.5	0.93	18.1	7.1	1.21	8.6	7.2
1964	19.0	0.93	17.7	8.4	1.21	10.2	7.2
1965	17.9	0.93	17.5	8.2	1.10	9.0	15.1
1966	14.0	0.93	13.0	8.3	1.12	9.3	-
England and Wales 1966			17.7			11.7	19.0

There were 105 live births during the year compared with 132 during the previous year resulting in a fall to 13. per 1,000 population.

The adjusted death rate of 9.3 is about the same as in the previous year, and I am pleased to report that there were no infant deaths throughout the year.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The continuing decline in the incidence of infectious diseases is shown by the following few notifications received from the whole District throughout the year.

Measles	9	Whooping Cough	1
Infectious Hepatitis		2	

I am pleased to report a further year of freedom from major infectious disease, diphtheria, poliomyelitis and enteric infections, and there were no outbreaks of food poisoning.

Following a report of two cases of Weils Disease - febrile jaundice of spirochaetal origin spread by rats - in North Hertfordshire in the Spring, medical practitioners were asked to notify any suspicious cases of jaundice occurring in the District, but none were reported. The two notifications of Infectious Hepatitis were received at the same time as the small outbreak in Welwyn Garden City although no direct link could be established.

With the closure of the Isolation Ward at Spittlesea Hospital, Luton, at the end of the year, infectious cases needing hospital care are admitted to St. Stephen's Ward, St. Albans City Hospital.

### Tuberculosis

The Chest Physician notified one new case of pulmonary tuberculosis, a total of 40 remaining on the register under supervision at the end of the year.

The Chest Clinics at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City, and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of patients in Welwyn and the southern part of the District, while patients from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and I am again grateful to Miss C.F. McMullen for advice on the domiciliary care of patients needing the support of the social services.

There was a good acceptance rate for the annual B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old school children in the Spring when 60 pupils received the protecting inoculation. In recent years the British freeze dried vaccine has been used which produces a milder reaction than the imported vaccine and is more readily accepted in the schools.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY:

The Lee Valley Water Company has continued during the year to give a satisfactory supply of water throughout the Rural District and there have been no dramatic changes in the distribution system.

As forecast in last year's report the policy of providing waste detection stations is now beginning to be implemented, and already four such stations have been placed in Welwyn, i.e., at Greggs Wood Tower, School Lane Pumping Station, Whitehill Cottages, and Low Welwyn Reservoir.

I am advised that the demand on the School Lane well is now reaching the limit of the available supply, and augmentation of supply is under serious consideration.

Following the successful restoration of the yield at the Digswell station, arrangements have been made for a large submersible pump to be installed in borehole number 5. The necessary alterations required in the building and pipework to receive the new pump are now proceeding.

During the year the subject of this report, the whole distribution system was sampled regularly, and of the 218 bacteriological and 12 chemical samples taken within the Rural District, all conformed to standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

I would commend to members of the public the Sixth Annual Report of the Lee Valley Water Company, which contains a wealth of information on sources and supplies over a wide area. It is interesting to note that in common with other Water Undertakings the Lee Valley Water Company realises that there is a limit to the development of sources on a purely local basis, and that it is necessary at some stage to consider importation of water from sources outside the area of supply, as for example, from the Works of the Great Ouse Water Authority on which the Company is represented.

With the object of examining the whole problem of increasing demand for water in the south-east, the water resources are broadly responsible during the year for forming a committee of Engineers from the River Authorities and the British Waterworks Association with the following terms of reference.

1. To assess the demands for water in south-east England in the years up to 2001, for the purposes of domestic, industrial, and agricultural use, and the maintenance of river flows and amenities.
2. To determine which sources were available to meet demands and to indicate the probable timetable for development.
3. To consider the system by which water would be distributed in bulk either raw or treated to the principle users in the area.



## SEWERAGE:

The whole of the Welwyn Rural District is now provided with main drainage facilities, with certain exceptions, which include the Parish of Ayot St. Lawrence, and part of the Parish of Ayot St. Peter.

The new schemes have added approximately 19 miles of sewers to our present commitments, and whilst for the most part the scheme is designed as self-cleansing, there are one or two lengths where, for economic reasons, falls were kept to a minimum, and these will have to be observed from time to time.

The administrative burden borne by my department during the carrying out of these schemes has been tremendous, and it is with a sense of relief that I can now report the schemes as complete.

I am still concerned about the quantity of surface water which is entering the sewers through the old sections at Woolmer Green, and now that we are connected with Hitchin Rural District from the Parish of Codicote. This matter is under investigation at the moment and I trust it will not be long before I am in a position to submit a report to the Council, with suggestions for reducing the quantity of surface water.

At ordinary times the surface water is not a nuisance, as the system and pumping stations are designed to cope with quite heavy flows, but when the occasional serious storm occurs, the extra surface water does create silting at the pumping stations, which can cause stoppages.

The cesspool service operated by the Council is still continued and maintained satisfactorily. This year there has been a very slight increase in the services given, but it is anticipated that 1967 will see a sharp drop.

As usual, I set out below details of a number of services given over the last eleven years, including outside assistance provided by the Contract Gully Cleansing Co. Ltd., Welwyn Garden City.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Services given</u>
1956	819
1957	932
1958	1023
1959	1025
1960	1101
1961	1166
1962	1165
1963	1089
1964	1100
1965	891
1966	962



## RAINFALL:

Readings of rainfall are taken at the Rural District Council's Weather Station, By-Pass Road, Welwyn. There was a measurable fall of rain on 178 days, yielding a total of 31.78 inches for the year. The heaviest fall was recorded on the 21st August 1966, and was 2.94 inches.

The wettest month was August, with a fall of 6.08 inches, and the driest month was March, with a fall of 0.47 inches.

Rainfall for 1965 was 28.11 inches.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

The collection service has improved greatly during the year, and complaints are now almost nil. The improvement began immediately after the introduction of a bonus scheme for the refuse collectors, which was introduced in the early part of the year.

I am still employing the skip system of collecting refuse, and whilst this system gives some benefit to the man collecting the refuse, it is in fact, in my view, a highly unsatisfactory way of conveying refuse from the bin to the refuse freighter. I hope in the near future to recommend a pilot scheme for replacement of certain refuse bins with paper sacks, which are now being manufactured in sufficient numbers to be obtainable at a reasonable price. The great advantage to the paper sack system is that the rubbish is not transferred to a second receptacle, thereby reducing nuisance during windy times, and is much lighter to transport to the freighter, thereby reducing effort and saving time.

The initial capital costs often appear high, but in my opinion they are well worth it, in these days of an apparently reducing labour force.

## RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

### SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER 1966.

	Hours worked.	No. of premises Inspected. Serviced.		No. of visits made.
Local Authority refuse tips and other surf. props.	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	21	18	135
Private dwellings.	225 $\frac{1}{2}$	293	192	389
Business premises.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	1	11
Agricultural prems.	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	325 $\frac{1}{4}$	321	211	535

Time spent on vehicle maintenance, receiving instructions,  
reporting on visits, baiting, etc. 34 hours.

Petrol used: 45 gallons. Approximately 34 m.p.g.



## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

There is still a disappointing response to the Grant provisions, although it is correct to say that quite a number of properties have been improved in the year without seeking Grant aid. During the year Discretionary Grants in respect of two properties in the sum of £800, and Standard Grants in respect of six properties in the sum of £1555 were approved by the Council.

Three were for owner/occupiers, and five for tenanted properties.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

I am pleased to report that much progress has been made during the year on the measuring of accommodation, and the latest position under this Act is that in the district there are registered 14 offices, 26 retail shops, and 11 catering establishments open to the public, including canteens. All these properties received a general inspection during the year.

On the analysis of persons employed in registered premises, I have to report the following figures:-

Offices:	420	persons	employed.
Retail shops:	73	"	"
Catering			
establishments:	56	"	"
Canteens:	22	"	"
Total:	<u>571</u>	"	"

Divided into 275 male and 296 female.

## HOUSING:

A total of 61 houses were completed during the year by private enterprise, and 47 were under construction at the end of the year.

## INSPECTION OF DISTRICT:

There have been no changes during the year in the staff establishment, and a good deal of public relations work is carried on which is not necessarily recorded. Nevertheless I am quite satisfied that people know where to come if they have any worries or complaints on the public health side, and indeed such matters that are brought to our notice are given priority.

I set out below a list of miscellaneous public health visits carried out by the staff during the year:

Housing defects (not Council Houses)	12
Canteens	6



Foodstuffs	28
Cafes	10
Cesspools	413
Building Regulations	1025
Trade Effluent	16
Moveable dwellings	40
Statutory nuisances	4
Slaughterhouses	Nil
Bakeries	4
Factories	27
Improvement Grants.	48
Rodent Control	560
Offices and Shops	51

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION:

The district is still without a slaughterhouse; all fresh and frozen meat is brought into the district and is presumed inspected at source.

However, the following quantities of foods were surrendered to me during the year for the reasons stated:-

24 lbs pigs melts, decomposition.

4 lbs chopped pork, blown can.

$3\frac{1}{2}$  lbs bread, allegedly containing moth larva.

$96\frac{1}{2}$  lbs capons, decomposition.

Appendix to District Reports:

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN GARDEN CITY U.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of	
			Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	112	107	7	-
Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	-	-	-	-
Total	112	107	7	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Tnspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	-	-	-
Total	7	7	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel  
Brush making

161  
6  
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Total: 167  
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Appendix to District Reports: (Continued)

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - HATFIELD R.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	2	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	113	86	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	1	6	-	-
Total	116	94	4	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	1	-
Sanitary Conveniences (a) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	-	-	-
Total	4	3	-	1	-

3. OUTWORKERS

Making wearing apparel  
Making stuffed toys

13

2

Total:

15

Appendix to District Reports: (Continued)

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 - WELWYN R.D.C.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	25	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	2	-	-
Total	22	27	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS Were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions Were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

3. OUTWORKERS

N I L



## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

### WELWYN DIVISION - HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

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This section provides information and comment on some aspects of the services which have received special attention during the year, with the results of some local enquiries and innovations introduced to improve the effectiveness of the services, as a supplement to the foregoing reports on the public health services of the District Councils. Mention is also made of some of the associated voluntary services provided in the area. More detailed information on the whole range of the County Health and Welfare Services can be obtained from the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer. Prolonged absences among medical staff, due to sickness and attendance at courses of post-graduate training, upset the stability of the team during the first half of the year, although no great difficulty was experienced in recruiting temporary Medical Officers. There were several changes of Health Visiting staff at Hatfield at the end of the year, but it was possible to maintain full Health Visiting and Nursing cover.

#### MIDWIFERY AND DISTRICT NURSING.

There was again a fall in the number of domiciliary deliveries during the year, but an increasing number of mothers press for early discharge from the Hospital Maternity Wards, the general trend being shown by the following figures:-

	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1966.</u>
No. of 48 hr. discharges:	107	154
No. visited discharged after 48 hours:	452	618
No. of visits to above:	1,877	2,878

The increase in visits to mothers discharged after 48 hours may be partly due to the use of the umbilical clamp in Hospital practice, which tends to leave the cord still attached for a little longer.

The number of patients visited by the home Nurses showed an increase of 260 to 1,620 in 1966. The visiting and nursing of the elderly and handicapped continues to increase, close liaison with the Social Workers (Welfare) and Medical Practitioners being maintained. Some 104 patients received special equipment or aids through the Divisional Office in addition to the usual items of nursing equipment obtained through the Medical Loan Depots.



## NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS.

The importance of play in the emotional development of the young child living in urban communities is receiving more attention, and there is a very real need for further provision for the short-term daytime care of young children when acute difficulties have arisen in the home. There is firstly a need to rationalise the provision of nursery care to avoid the confusion between the Day Nurseries and Nursery Schools which exists at present, so that the Health and Welfare Department would be responsible for children up to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years of age in the Day Nurseries, and thereafter the Education Department would assume responsibility in the Nursery Schools. Until the climate of opinion changes, it is unlikely that money will be available to increase the number of places available in Local Authority nurseries, and so every encouragement is given to suitable women seeking to register as Child Minders and those wishing to set up small play groups of young children throughout the Division. In practice these small local groups are often conveniently situated, adequately equipped, and provide a personal service which can be readily varied to meet the needs of the mother and child. They can, therefore, be of the greatest assistance to Health Visitors and Social Workers seeking to help distressed parents.

## SOCIAL WORK.

In September the Social Work Unit was established, with offices on the first floor of the Parkway Health Centre in Welwyn Garden City. When fully established the Unit will include the Divisional Social Worker, Senior Social Worker (Mental Health), Divisional Welfare Officer, five Social Workers (3 Mental Health, 1 Welfare, 1 Blind), and one Handicraft Instructor, with suitable clerical help. The Social Workers were transferred from offices at Hatfield and are already finding the benefit of group meetings and consultation in the new Unit. As space is limited at Parkway, the Social Worker (Blind) and the Handicraft Instructor will remain based at the Queensway Health Centre.

I am grateful to Mr. I. Page and Miss Thomas for their support and advice in getting the Unit set up at Parkway, and I look forward to the appointment of the Divisional Social Worker to direct and co-ordinate the work of the Unit with the other Health and Social Services throughout the Division.

The Mental Health Social Workers have already established a good working relationship with the staff of the Psychiatric Wing of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and Cell Barnes and Harperbury Hospitals, but there is still scope to improve liaison with and co-ordination of the work of the voluntary agencies for the elderly and handicapped throughout the Division.



## HOME HELP SERVICE.

An intensive recruitment campaign was held from 19th to 26th March to remedy the acute shortage of Home Helps in the Division, which resulted in 13 new Helps joining the service - an increase of 272 hours per week. This has greatly assisted Mrs. Cosgreave in meeting the requests for this service in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield, but failed to find new recruits in Potters Bar and Welwyn. An additional effort in Potters Bar on 18th June with a mobile recruitment van failed to attract more applicants, so attention is now being given to improving the conditions of service in Potters Bar to give further stimulus to recruitment. A general In-Service training course was held in Welwyn Garden City in the Autumn with the co-operation of the Mid Herts. College of Further Education, attended by 11 Home Helps, and earlier in the year small discussion groups were held in Potters Bar, Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City with the Organiser and a Health Visitor leading the discussion. In general the staffing position in the Home Help Service cannot be regarded as satisfactory since the development of the health and social services in 'urban' areas places increasing demands upon a labour force which now seems to have reached a recruitment ceiling. Constant changes in staff create difficulties in supervision and tend to confuse the elderly householders who do not readily adjust themselves to new workers with differing methods.

## INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Attendances at the infant welfare sessions throughout the Division have been well maintained, the levels of primary immunisation and vaccination being satisfactory. The setting up of the working party under the guidance of Sir Alan Moncrieff to study the functioning of the infant welfare clinics has already provided a stimulus to the Medical Officers taking these sessions - as is shown by the following comment recently made to me by Dr. Macartney:-

"We are currently much attracted by the idea of developmental screening, but it seems to me that there is a lot more to this than performing a series of tests at arbitrary ages. I think that we have got to go back to basic principles. Recognise that we cannot do everything that we would like to do. Choose and define what we consider is worth looking for on the grounds that it occurs with sufficient frequency, that it can be detected early, and that there is not only an effective treatment, but sufficient resources to provide it! It is to be hoped that the Working Party on Infant Welfare Clinics will give some substance to these principles, and that in due course it will define the up-to-date purpose of the Clinics and suggest the means of providing the staff with the training that they need."



From the progress already achieved, I am sure that the recommendations of this Working Party when finally drafted will prove to be of the greatest value in shaping our concept of the child health functions of our Centres in the future, and the roles of the Medical Officer and Health Visitor.

#### NEW PREMISES.

##### (a) Parkway, Welwyn Garden City.

In September the clinic services for the west side of Welwyn Garden City were transferred from Lawrence Hall to the Parkway Health Centre in Birdcroft Road. Full credit must be given to the County Architect's Department for designing a building with such an attractive and convenient layout and elevation. In addition to a pleasant clinic suite on the ground floor, the building contains a large Medical Loan Depot, and three Lecture Rooms, and a garage for use by the local detachment of the St. John Ambulance Brigade as training headquarters, and also for use as the County Council's District Nurse Training School. On the first floor are located the offices of the Social Work Unit and a fully equipped Dental Suite. Owing to good liaison early in the planning stage, the building is well designed for Health Education, a children's play group, and specialised school services. It has received full praise from the staff working in the premises.

##### (b) The Civic Centre, Welwyn.

1966 saw the culmination of many years of planning for a new purpose-built Civic Centre for the Rural District of Welwyn. Although serving a population of only 7,000, there is no evidence of parochial thinking about this fine modern building which comprises a large, well-equipped hall with committee rooms and ancillary accommodation, with suites of rooms for a County Council Branch Library and Welfare Centre.

The Welfare Centre is a complete unit in itself, having a separate Waiting Room with access to an outside but enclosed Toddlers' play-space. There is a large Weighing Room with Consultation Rooms for the Medical Officer and Health Visitor, and facilities for the storage and distribution of welfare foods. Kitchen arrangements are shared with the Civic Centre. The availability of modern clinic premises made it possible to transfer the Chiropody sessions from their former premises at the Jubilee Club in Welwyn.

With the opening of the new Centre, the Welfare Hut in Broomfield Road, which had done duty for so many years, was finally demolished.



## INFLUENZA OUTBREAK.

During February an appeal for help was received from the Principal of Sherrards Training Centre, Welwyn, where nine members of the staff and twenty-nine trainees had an influenzal illness. Immediate nursing help was provided from the Council's nursing staff, and additional help sought from the local detachments of the W.R.V.S. and the Red Cross Society.

The illness was of short duration - those affected being confined to bed with headache, backache, stiff and aching limbs and moderately high pyrexia. On the third day, fifteen patients were allowed up and by this time some of the daily staff were well enough to resume duties, so the emergency was judged to be over. Help was withdrawn at the end of the week, by which time most had recovered and the Centre was able to continue under normal staffing arrangements.

## HYPOTHERMIA.

At the request of Dr. K. C. Hutchin, General Practitioner at Hatfield, a special investigation was undertaken of some 80 elderly persons on the medical list of this group practice during January and February. 63 of these persons were over 70 years of age.

In only two instances were body temperatures found to be abnormally low (95°F.) and both of these were housebound and inactive with bedroom temperatures of 52°F and living rooms at 62°F and 64°F. In one house a bedroom temperature of 38°F was recorded and a living room temperature of 48°F. The wife felt the need of fresh air and insisted that the windows should be kept open. Both husband and wife were active, but the husband complained of the coldness of the room and was not well.

When making arrangements for this enquiry it was realized that it would be sensible to make use of this opportunity to assess the needs of the people visited. The enquiry itself was not quite so straightforward in practice as it at first appeared. Where our staff were already known to the patients, all was well, but in visiting strangers, introductions had to be effected, permission obtained, fears and doubts smoothed away, and explanations made, which in some cases became very involved, particularly when the patient was hard of hearing. In some cases there seemed to be suspicion that this was the first step towards a recommendation that residential care was desirable for this person. Considerable tact was needed in making the approach, and the visits were sometimes lengthy. Some of the patients were found to have difficulties which needed sorting out, and some recommendations to other Social Workers were made. Two visits were made in each case, the wall thermometers being placed near the bed in the bedroom, and



near the patient's usual chair in the sitting room at the first visit, and left until the next day when they were read. Body temperatures were taken in the mouth with low reading thermometers. Although room temperatures in many cases were low, warm clothing was worn by the majority of patients. Complaints were received about the high cost of electricity and gas. In most houses auxiliary heat was available, but only used in very cold weather and as need arose - e.g. just before bedtime, in the bedroom.

## MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

The Mid Herts Marriage Guidance Council has had a busy year both in the group counselling of young people in association with the Churches, Senior Schools and the Mid Herts College of Further Education and also in counselling for married couples seeking help over problems arising in their marriage. 88 persons with marriage difficulties sought help from the team of seven marriage guidance counsellors, four of them work at the Gooseacre Health Centre, Welwyn Garden City, two at the Bull Plain Health Centre in Hertford and one at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Hoddesdon.

Counselling is most exacting work, and it is essential that those who undertake it should be carefully selected and trained, and that training should continue throughout a counsellor's working life. Such selection and training is organised by the National Marriage Guidance Council in order to maintain a high standard of work throughout the country. Counsellors in this area are greatly helped by attendance at regular training groups and periodic area conferences. A survey of marriage counselling work shows that there is considerable fluctuation in the demand for help throughout the year, and the number of interviews needed by clients depends upon how far the clients feel they are being helped to work out their problems. Marriage counselling is a process whereby the client is helped to find his or her own way out of difficulties, and is not the instant solution of problems by the giving of advice.

The Education work of the Council increased during the year with four educational counsellors trained to help groups of young people to consider personal relationships. In her annual report on the work of the Marriage Guidance Council, Mrs. Hawkins reports :-

"During the year there has been a particular expansion in the work done at the Mid Herts College of Further Education where counsellors have led discussion with both day-release and full-time students. This is a particularly fruitful time for consideration of personal relationships, when young people are meeting the full impact of the adult world, often for the first time. Another time when help



can be offered is when young people are leaving school, and towards the end of the summer term several heads of secondary schools have asked for leaders for groups of school leavers (Schools in Cheshunt, Hertford, Hatfield, St. Albans and Welwyn Garden City). In addition counsellors have led discussion in youth clubs and there have been four series of discussions for engaged couples. The time immediately preceding marriage is another useful occasion for the consideration of personal relationships, and the couples who attend these groups always find them worth while. It is a pity that it seems to be so difficult to get in touch with the couples who would like to come, and even those who hear about them are often diffident about coming to these friendly and informal groups."

Speakers about the work of marriage guidance are always available and during the year thirteen speakers addressed various groups, including Young Wives' Groups, Ladies Circle, Townswomen's Guild and Citizens Advice Bureau staff.

#### FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Attendances at the Family Planning sessions at Gooseacre, Welwyn Garden City, and Queensway Health Centre, Hatfield, have been well maintained, additional sessions being arranged in each town for consultation and advice regarding the intra-uterine contraceptive device or the contraceptive pill. An additional weekly session was introduced at the Viaduct Centre to provide more convenient facilities for the N.W. area of Welwyn Garden City and Welwyn, and following representations from womens organisations in Potters Bar, the local secretary of the Family Planning Association agreed to sponsor the opening of sessions at the Cranborne Clinic. Fortunately there has been no dearth of trained doctors and nurses to take these busy sessions, and the Family Planning Association is giving consideration to the best means of bringing the service more readily to the notice of those women who would derive the greatest social and physical benefits from advice at a centre.

#### WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY

The Hatfield District Old Peoples Welfare Council and the Welwyn Garden City Old Peoples Welfare Committee have continued their valuable work promoting and co-ordinating the many services for the elderly in their areas and supporting the activities of the local clubs which meet regularly each week. The seven clubs in the Hatfield District, four in Welwyn Garden City and three in Welwyn provide a varied programme of visits, excursions, holidays and social activities for their members and arrange visiting for those who are sick or incapacitated in their homes or in hospital. In their evidence submitted to the Committee on Local Authority and Allied Personal Social Services the National Old Peoples Welfare Council stated "The overall concern of



the Council is that services, both statutory and voluntary, should be available for every elderly person needing any kind of help which cannot be readily provided by relatives or friends. The Council believes that everything possible should be done to enable elderly persons to continue to live (for as long as possible) comfortably in their own homes, or where this is possible or desirable, with their families or friends. It is thus the personal needs of each individual old person with which the Council is primarily concerned".

There has been a steady growth in the Meals on Wheels Service in each District and attendance at the luncheons clubs has been well maintained. The local branches of the W.R.V.S. and the Red Cross Society play a large part in these arrangements, with generous support from the three local firms who regularly provide the meals at standard cost from their large kitchens.

The chiropody service for the elderly is available at most centres and though the service is mainly provided at the Local Authority clinic premises, the clubs still play a large part in arranging attendance of members. Domiciliary visits to the housebound are included in the scheme and transport to the chiropody sessions is arranged by the club secretaries where necessary.

The Old People's Welfare Committees have a most difficult task in attempting to assess and coordinate the wide range of services both voluntary and statutory provided in their Districts and with the appointment of the Divisional Social Work Organiser at the Social Work Unit, I hope to forge a closer link with the Local Authority staff and services. There is certainly a need for more information on the County Health and Welfare Services for the elderly in this Division to be made available to the committees with free comment and discussion on their development.

#### WELFARE OF THE HANDICAPPED

The local area committees of the Hertfordshire Association for the Welfare of the Handicapped have continued their work in support of the disabled in each District. Plans were prepared during the year for extending the workshop for the severely handicapped at Hollybush with the support of the Commission for the New Towns and the District Councils, and improved transport facilities have now been organised.

Regular meetings of members are held each month at Gooseacre, Welwyn Garden City and Queensway Clinic, Hatfield, which are usually well attended and once again mention should be made of the local branches of the W.R.V.S. and the Red Cross Society who give generous support in so many ways.



The provision of aids and specialised equipment for the disabled is now well organised through the local detachment of the Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Association for the Welfare of the Handicapped and the Divisional Health & Welfare office. The Regional Officer of the Ministry of Labour also provides major items of equipment, chairs and transport. In recent years improved facilities have been made available for the rehabilitation and training of handicapped persons at local hospitals and through the industrial training and rehabilitation scheme of the Ministry of Labour. I am also grateful to Dr. Randall at the Garston Manor Rehabilitation and Training Unit for his advice regarding handicapped school leavers.

The Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City Society for the Welfare of the Handicapped has had a busy year assisting the mentally handicapped in many ways and the monthly meetings held at Queensway Health Centre, Hatfield, have been well attended. Both the Adult and Junior Training Centres are grateful for the active support of the Society a variety of excursions and visits being arranged for the children and their parents. Plans for providing a paddling pool at the Junior Centre are making good progress and the assistance with transport arrangements is always appreciated. I am particularly grateful to Mrs. Willis, Secretary of the Group for her welcome and assistance to families with handicapped children newly arrived in the area when faced with so many urgent practical problems.

CLINIC SERVICES IN MID-HERTFORDSHIRE.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY.

Gooseacre Health Centre.

Infant Welfare.	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. 2/4p.m.
Ante Natal.	Friday. 2/4p.m.
Welfare Foods Distribution.	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. 2/4p.m.
Medical Loan.	Monday, Wednesday & Friday. 7/8p.m.
Family Planning.	Monday. 7/8.30p.m. Thursday. 1.30/3p.m.
Marriage Guidance.	Monday evening (by appointment)
Herts. Assoc. for the Welfare of the Handicapped.	2nd Thursday evening in each month.
Red Cross.	Tuesday evening.

School Health Services:-

Dental, Orthoptic, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy  
Audiometry, Child & Family Psychiatry. - By appointment.

Parkway Health Centre.

Infant Welfare.	Wednesday & Thursday. 2/4p.m.
Chiropody.	Friday. 9a.m./12 noon.
Medical Loan.	Monday to Friday. 8/9p.m.
Welfare Foods Distribution.	Daily. 9a.m./5p.m.
Cervical Cytology.	Tuesday. 2/4p.m.
Catholic Marriage Advisory Council.	Thursday evening.
Spastics Society.	2nd Tuesday evening in each month.

School Health Services:-

Dental. Speech Therapy. By appointment.

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Divisional Headquarters - St. John Ambulance Brigade.  
County Council Nurses Training School.  
Social Work Unit.

Viaduct Health Centre.

Infant Welfare.	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. 2/4p.m.
Child Development.	By appointment.
Welfare Foods Distribution.	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. 2/4p.m.

School Health Services:-

Dental. Speech Therapy. By appointment.



HATFIELD.

Queensway Health Centre.

Infant Welfare.	Tuesday & Wednesday. 2/4p.m. Thursday. 9.30/11.30a.m.
Ante-Natal/Relaxation Classes.	Monday. 2/4p.m.
Welfare Foods Distribution.	Daily. 9a.m./5p.m.
Cervical Cytology.	Monday. 9.30/11.30a.m.
Pathology Clinic.	Wednesday. 9.30/11a.m.
Chiropody.	Friday. 1.30/3.30p.m.
Family Planning.	Tuesday. 7.15/8.45p.m. Wednesday. 7/8.30p.m. Friday. 9.30/11a.m. Monday & Friday. 2.30/4p.m.
Medical Loan.	
British Rheumatism & Arthritis Association.	1st Thursday in each month. 2/5p.m.
Hatfield Society for the Welfare of the Mentally Handicapped.	3rd Thursday in each month. 7.30p.m.
School Health Services:- Dental, Orthoptic, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy, Audiology, Audiometry.	By appointment.

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Social Worker for the Blind.  
Social Worker for the Physically Handicapped.

Hilltop Health Centre.

Infant Welfare.	Friday. 9.30/11.30a.m. 2/4p.m.
School Health Service: Speech Therapy.	By appointment.

ESSENDON - The Village Hall.

Infant Welfare.	2nd & 4th Thursday in each month. 2/4p.m.
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BROOKMANS PARK - The Hotel.

Infant Welfare.	1st & 3rd Mondays in each month. 2/4p.m.
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NORTH MYMMS - The Memorial Hall.

Infant Welfare.	Thursday. 2/4p.m.
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CUFFLEY - The Victory Centre.

Infant Welfare.	Monday. 2/4p.m.
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POTTERS BAR.

The Elms Health Centre.

Infant Welfare.  
Ante Natal.  
Relaxation Classes.  
Chiropody.  
  
Chiropody. (Red Cross)  
Welfare Foods Distribution.  
Cervical Cytology.

Monday & Wednesday. 2/4p.m.  
Friday (alternate). 2/4p.m.  
Thursday (alternate). 9.30/11.30a.m.  
1st, 3rd, 5th Tuesdays. 9a.m./12 noon.  
2nd & 4th Mondays. 9a.m./12 noon.  
Friday (alternate). 2/4.30p.m.  
Monday & Wednesday. 2/4p.m.  
Tuesday. 9.30/11.30a.m.

School Health Services:-

Dental. Speech Therapy. By appointment.

Cranborne Health Centre.

Infant Welfare.  
Ante Natal.  
Relaxation Classes.  
Chiropody.  
  
Chiropody (Red Cross)  
Welfare Foods Distribution.  
Family Planning.

Tuesday & Thursday. 2/4p.m.  
Friday (alternate). 2/4p.m.  
Thursday (alternate). 9.30/11.30a.m.  
1st, 3rd, 5th Mondays. 9a.m./12 noon.  
2nd & 4th Tuesdays. 9a.m./12 noon.  
Wednesday (alternate). 2/4.30p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday. 2/4p.m.  
Wednesday. 7/8.30p.m.

School Health Services:-

Dental, Ophthalmic,  
Orthoptic.

By appointment.

SOUTH MIMMS - Parish Hall.

Infant Welfare.

2nd & 4th Fridays. 2/4p.m.

WELWYN - Health Centre.

Infant Welfare.  
Chiropody.  
Ante Natal.

Friday. 2/4p.m.  
By appointment.  
1st Thursday in each month. 2/4p.m.